BENGALURU, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 66% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 77,337 | Nifty 23,516 | Gold 71,765 | Silver 89,132 | Dollar 83.43 | Euro 89.62 | GBP 106.13

## MATTER OF RIGHTS

New academic guidelines welcome, but focus on child rights missing, say rights activists

PAGE 2

## SAFE PRACTICES

Sale of abortion medication to be regulated, task force to ensure compliance, protect women's health

PAGE 7

### Audit reveals massive irregularities in Bengaluru's optical fiber cable network operations; due to lax monitoring, companies have caused BBMP losses pegged at Rs 86.65 crore

# WE HAVE OUR WIRES CROSSED

## BBMP fails to take action against illegal connections, now scrambling to mop up mess

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Bengaluru's optical fiber cable (OFC) network is plagued by irregularities, with a few telecom service providers allegedly colluding with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to make numerous illegal connections. These unauthorised installations have led to revenue losses for the BBMP, estimated to run into crores of rupees.

An audit has revealed that the cables have been laid without proper permissions and without paying the required fees, often tied haphazardly to trees, electricity poles, buildings, and traffic signal poles. This not only causes damage to the city's infrastructure but also poses risks to the safety of pedestrians and vehicles.

An official said, "Despite the existence of a tender system for the legal installation of OFC cables, the BBMP has failed to take decisive action against these illegal connections. The situation suggests the presence of a nexus operating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

**"The audit found that some companies had obtained permission for limited cable lengths but laid up to 10 times the authorised lengths. This blatant disregard for regulations has exacerbated the financial losses** — Official

# Pedestrians most at risk from drunk drivers

## Traffic police initiate drive that shows areas with most drunk driving cases also record high pedestrian deaths

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The Bengaluru South Traffic Division has initiated special drives to address driving under the influence in areas with high pedestrian accident rates. DCP South Traffic Shiva Prakash Devaraju told Bangalore Mirror BM that after analysis, the traffic police have noticed that most of the pedestrian deaths are being caused by people driving under the influence ramming their vehicles into pedestrians and therefore targeted drunk and driving drives will help to reduce accident rates.

He added that to address the issue of pedestrian deaths, the traffic police are also installing signage, zebra crossings, and elevated pedestrian crossings. "We have identified hotspots and are actively working towards solutions," said Devaraju.

The Bengaluru South has recorded 33 pedestrian deaths in 2024, so far. The highest number of deaths were reported in Electronic City with nine deaths.

According to the data accessed by BM for drink and drive, the traffic cops have booked 1,263 cases in the south division.

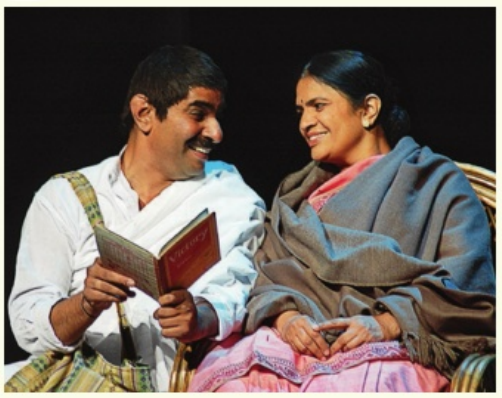
Among that, 736 cases have been sent to the RTO and 285 licenses have been suspended.

### Special drive against DUI

In a recent crackdown on drunk driving

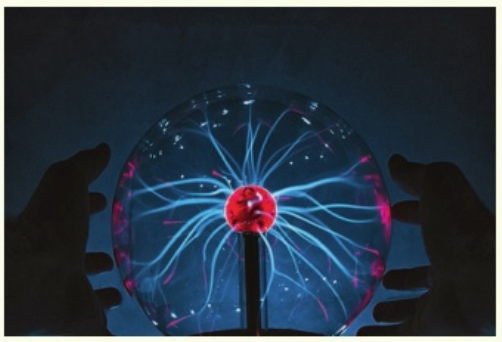
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO



### 01 Humorous anecdotes

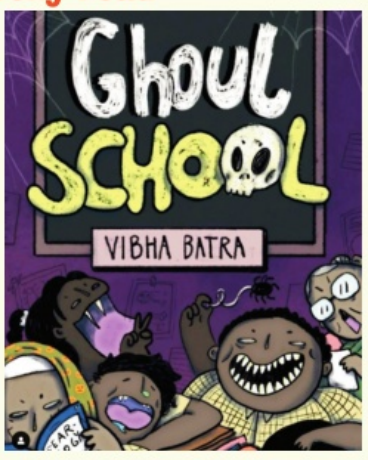
Kriyative Theatre, a group that believes in combining comedy with artistic excellence, presents 'Ratnan Parpancha,' a play directed by Joseph and performed by well-known theatre artists Sunder, Laxmi Chandrashekar, Ramakrishna Kannarapadi, Chandrakeerthi, Gajanana T Naik, Gautham Upadhya, and Vadiraj. The show includes interesting and humorous anecdotes from the life and works of the well-known Kannada writer, GP Rajaratnam.
**Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar**
**When: June 20, 7:30 pm**



### 02 Matters of plasma

Dive into the electrifying world of plasma, the fourth state of matter beyond solids, liquids, and gases, with a talk on 'Matters of Plasma' by Professor Subroto Mukherjee. In his talk, he will cover various aspects of plasmas and its applications, from energy to environmental solutions. This state of matter is an excellent conductor of electricity and exhibits unique collective behaviour. **Where: Bangalore International Centre; When: June 22, 11 am**

### 03 Spooky read




Join in for the launch of Vibha Batra's new children's book, 'Ghoul School.' Step into the quirky and spooky school world as you read the super natural tales and hop through engaging illustrations. With a mix of humour, adventure, and drawings, the book is an exciting journey for young readers. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: June 22, 2 pm**

# Academic guidelines evoke mixed responses

## Some activists acclaim Education Department's efforts, while others criticise lack of focus on protection of child rights, inclusion of child rights clubs in guidelines

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

'The academic guidelines did not mention anything about the measures to be taken to prevent child marriages, and failed to focus on distribution of sanitary napkins at schools'

The academic guidelines issued by the Department of Education for the academic year 2024–25 have received a mixed response from child rights activists. While some of the activists have welcomed the efforts made by the education department to prepare the academic guidelines, others have criticised the Department of Education for not focusing on the protection of child rights.

Dr Vasudeva Sharma NV, trustee and executive director of the Child Rights Trust, has welcomed the Education Department's move to include many issues for the protection of child rights, such as creating awareness among children and teachers about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) and how to keep toilets clean and neat at schools. "However, it would have been better if the guidelines emphasised on the need for conducting awareness meetings on POCSO for children and teachers. It would also have been better if the guidelines made a provision to facilitate child rights clubs at schools," said Sharma.

He further said that the academic guidelines fail to make a provision for having a complaint box at the schools. "I want the Education Department to raise awareness about child protection policies, organise medical check-ups, and facilitate libraries at all schools. The academic guidelines also failed to focus on the distribution of sanitary napkins for girls at schools," Sharma added.

Nagasimha G Rao, director of the Child Rights Trust, has opined that the Department of Education has to take all departments into confidence while preparing the academic guidelines. "I am of the opinion that organising an awareness programme once a year will not serve the purpose. The need of the hour is to organise awareness programmes at regular intervals," he said.

> **"It would have been better if guidelines made provisions to facilitate child rights clubs at schools**
> – Dr Vasudeva Sharma, trustee & executive , Child Rights Trust

Speaking about the students' participation in environment-related programmes and the nature of parents' meetings, Rao said that the Education Department has to make a provision to facilitate children's participation in environment and climate-related programmes. "The guidelines made a provision for conducting parents' meetings but failed to make it clear that the meeting is for mental counselling or academics," Rao added.

Coming down heavily on the department for not including child rights protection policy and child rights clubs at schools, a child rights activist, on the condition of anonymity, noted that the academic guidelines did not mention anything about the measures to be taken to prevent child marriages. "Children at schools must enjoy their rights. The Department of Education is not serious about child rights and child rights protection policy," said the child rights activist.

# Teachers mould fate of nation, play pivotal role in nation building: HC

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The Karnataka High Court, while allowing an appeal filed by a teacher, has directed the State Higher Education Department to give effect to the management's order for her absorption as a full-time lecturer in the institution. This move comes against the background of a teacher who has been fighting for her absorption for a long time now.

Vijayalakshmi HS, a Hindi lecturer hired on a part-time basis, has been fighting for her absorption as a full-time lecturer since her appointment in 1996. The position she filled became vacant only after the retirement of Shankareshwar Bhat on May 31, 1996. Following this, she was appointed by the institution's competent body. Despite her long tenure, her petition for absorption was denied by the Educational Appellate Authority in a decision dated May 15, 2013. This decision was later upheld by a single judge bench on February 24, 2016, leading to Vijayalakshmi's appeal to the division bench of the High Court. The judge held that the three conditions that Rule 3 of the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Collegiate Education) Rules, 2003, enacts were not complied with, and hence, the absorption could not be granted.

A division bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Ramchandra D Huddar said, "Absorption would secure favourable conditions of service to the teachers, and that in turn would proliferate their interest in the discharge of their duties. It hardly needs to be stated that it is the teachers that mould the fate of a nation, and they play a pivotal role in nation-building." It further said, "During World War II, although the salaries of several segments of civil servants were downgraded, those of the teachers were not only left unaffected but came to be considerably enhanced by the British regime by virtue of the Burnham Agreement. Therefore, while denying benefits of service to the community of teachers, the state and its authorities should be extra cautious."

The High Court has now looked into Rule 3 of the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Collegiate Education) Rules, 2003, which lays down rules for the absorption of part-time lecturers in private-aided first-grade colleges. The court held that the rule aims to protect the tenure of long-serving lecturers, ensuring their expertise benefits the student community, and criticised the earlier interpretation of the rule made by the single judge. The Court was of the opinion that the interpretation made was overly rigid and failed to consider the broader context and intent of the legislation.

# VK Property Expo-2024: Ideal space for homebuyers & investors

Vijay Karnataka is hosting a two-day "VK Property Expo-2024" on June 22 and 23 at Chandra Sagar Kalyana Mahal in Jayanagar, Bengaluru. This event will bring together a variety of reputed real estate developers, builders, and property dealers, offering an extensive selection of residential and commercial properties, including apartments, flats, and plots, at competitive prices. The VK Property Expo-2024 promises a comprehensive and supportive environment for homebuyers and investors, with a wide range of properties, exclusive discounts, and convenient home loan facilities.

With residential plots starting at Rs 6 lakh and apartments starting at Rs 20 lakh, the expo aims to provide a platform for citizens to purchase their dream home or property at reasonable prices. Around 20 esteemed real estate companies, builders, and developers will participate, showcasing their projects and offering exclusive discounts at the expo. These companies are trusted for their quality work and will present detailed information about their housing projects and layouts, helping visitors make informed decisions.The expo will also feature spot registration and home loan facilities from leading banks, allowing visitors to register their properties on the spot and access home loans conveniently. Additionally, builders and developers will offer special discounts on properties, making this event a prime opportunity for those looking to invest in real estate.

The expo provides a unique chance for customers to interact directly with builders and developers, addressing any doubts they may have. Real estate experts and experienced professionals will be on hand to offer free guidance and information to prospective buyers, helping to alleviate the common anxieties and doubts associated with purchasing property. In addition to property showcases, the expo will feature informative seminars and Q&A sessions with industry leaders, offering insights into market trends, investment strategies, and future developments in the real estate sector. This educational aspect of the expo will equip attendees with the knowledge needed to make well-informed investment decisions.

Moreover, the VK Property Expo-2024 aims to foster a community of informed buyers and sellers, facilitating networking opportunities among participants. Potential buyers can connect with like-minded individuals and professionals, sharing experiences and gaining valuable advice. This collaborative environment is designed to ensure that every attendee leaves with a clearer understanding of the real estate landscape and the confidence to take the next steps towards owning their dream property. Join us at Chandra Sagar Kalyana Mahal, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, on June 22 and 23, from 10 am to 6 pm. Entry is free. For more information, please contact: 9164272060, 9880115666.

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# Marshals combat trash issues: Kannamangala's success story

## Local authority addresses waste management through segregation and removal of black spots, with appointed marshals enforcing rules just like BBMP

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Kannamangala Panchayat, renowned for its efforts in addressing waste management issues, has been diligently working towards ensuring waste segregation at the source and eliminating black spots. Villagers, particularly those committed to minimising pollution, believe that the appointment of marshals has made a significant difference, with those disposing of waste in the morning fearing penalties from these marshals. Kannamangala Panchayat in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency stands out as possibly the only panchayat around Bengaluru to appoint marshals similar to those of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"For the first time, marshals have been introduced in a Panchayat area. Black spot monitoring, plastic ban implementation, creating awareness on waste management and penalising perpetual offenders are some of the key tasks. It has already started showing changes on the ground with people taking ownership and also helps in fine-tuning the waste collection process," said Lingaraj Urs, Chairman of Mahadevapura Task Force.

Residents are happy with the positive results of appointing marshals. "I support the appointment of marshals to monitor the segregation of waste. Some individuals litter and make various excuses for dumping garbage. Few of them do not know how to dispose of garbage. We visit households to raise awareness about proper garbage disposal methods," said Snehalatha Venkataraman, a member of Kannamangala Panchayat. Pavithra Ramesh, president of Kannamangala Panchayat, commends the marshals for reducing black spots significantly in just one month. "We have appointed five marshals last month. They are doing a good job," she said.

Marshals beautifying one of the black spots

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, KR Venkatesh, a marshal, emphasised their efforts in educating residents about segregating waste at its source. "We have beautified a black spot at Bevinamara colony recently. Some miscreants are trying to create problems. So far we have penalised around 50 people for dumping waste on the road. We collected Rs 100 to Rs 500 as a penalty from those responsible for black spots," he said.

> **"The Marshals' efforts have been successful, reducing black spots within a week. They have beautified the cleared areas** – Shreya Praveen, resident

Shreya Praveen, a resident, has said Kannamangala faced issues with garbage "To tackle this, the Kannamangala Panchayat formed a self-help group (SHG) that educated residents on waste segregation and started collecting waste. They also set up a processing centre named Kasa Center, for scientific waste processing. However, black spots persisted as people continued to dump garbage on the roadside. To address this, the Panchayat hired marshals to identify and discourage those responsible. The marshals' efforts have been successful, reducing black spots drastically within a week. They politely inform offenders of the consequences and impose fines after repeated warnings, with collected fines going to the SHG. The marshals have also beautified the cleared areas," she said.

# Sewage Shock: Whitefield residents concerned about water quality

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Residents of Whitefield's Borewell Road were shocked to find their Cauvery water supply contaminated with sewage, sparking serious health concerns and immediate action from local authorities. The issue first surfaced on Saturday when several households reported foul-smelling water flowing from their taps. "We experienced this problem on Saturday. We got Cauvery water first and then suddenly ended up with sewage water. It was very shocking and raised a lot of health concerns," said a resident. The contaminated water forced residents to flush out their tanks, disinfect them, and refill them with fresh water from tankers. The problem recurred on Monday, heightening fears among the community. "It was an extremely concerning situation. However, now the situation is better. But since we get Cauvery water twice a week, we are not sure if we will get the water mixed with sewage again. The situation needs to be rectified urgently," the resident added.

BBMP officials have taken swift action since then. "On Wednesday morning, we collected water samples along with BBMP MOH (Medical Officer of Health), Senior Health Inspector, and UPHC Siddapur Junior Health Inspector. We also informed the BWSSB Engineer. We are awaiting the results," a BBMP official stated.

Residents voiced their concerns and frustrations over the potential health risks. "We are worried about our children's health. They can easily get sick from this kind of contamination. We need assurance that this

issue will be permanently fixed," said a resident. "We had to spend a lot of time and money to clean our tanks and buy water from tankers. It's not just inconvenient but also dangerous. The authorities need to ensure this doesn't happen again," said another resident.

Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, said, "The biggest reason contaminants pollute drinking water is due to the poor quality of pipes and incorrect installation. Water pipes are often laid next to sewage pipes and pass through open drains containing raw sewage and waste, highlighting the failure of BWSSB and local authorities to prevent this. Due to constant overload, sewage pipes often burst and leak under high pressure. In contrast, empty water pipes, often of lower quality or ageing, can easily draw in liquids from their surroundings if they develop leaks. The Government needs to audit and if necessary overhaul the entire water infrastructure. But this is the least of the problems, Government needs to overhaul the entire administrative framework in keeping with the 74th amendment so that planning and governance improve. "

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### Waste woes
**Gottigere**

Waste has been left unattended in front of Jeevalaya Institute, and the BBMP hasn't cleared it till now.

### Footpath fiasco
**Whitefield**

Opposite Prestige Shanthiniketan on IPTL Road, unauthorised food stalls are blocking the footpaths and bus stop, highlighting the BBMP neglect.

### Abandoned car
**RT Nagar**

An abandoned car has been left outside the Nandini milk booth on 12th Cross, RT Nagar, 1st Block, for the past 10 days.

# No space to protest, but small relief: Bail to 3 booked during campaign for Palestine

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Anticipatory bail has been granted to all three persons who were booked under non-bailable charges in a second FIR relating to the Palestine awareness campaign that was shut down after severe police intervention. They were booked under the Sections 332, 353, 504 and 506 of IPC. The first FIR was filed against 14 of those involved in the campaign.

One of the persons who was booked in the FIR told Bangalore Mirror that they were initially unaware of the charges levied against them and found out after coming across a newspaper report with the details of the same.

"We checked for more details on the court website and filed for anticipatory bail as the police would be able to arrest us without a warrant for investigation. The second FIR was filed as an afterthought, as a retaliation for the medico-legal case filed by us," he said.

He said that the law of the land is clear and allows for lawful assembly by its citizens.

Restrictions of protest anywhere but in the premises of Freedom Park in the city after passing of the Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) Order in 2022 is a violation of Article 19 of the Constitution and must be revoked immediately, he added.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah before coming to power would often criticise the restrictions on protest disrupting the healthy functioning of a democracy but his very own government is now yet to revoke the order. The party must not only condemn them (the restrictions) in words but also in practice. What is worrying is that this is now becoming a pan-India model. Earlier, Delhi was restricted to conduct their protests in Jantar Mantar alone," he said.

A civil society delegation met the DCP (East) recently to demand an inquiry into the violence against the citizens who had gathered to conduct the awareness drive on Palestine on June 2. In the memorandum submitted to the DCP, the delegation said, "Before they could even gather and start the information dissemination, police arrived there and started violently dragging the citizens away, with no explanation. The citizens were dragged into vans and some of them were beaten by police officials in plain clothes in the van. There were no women police personnel present, yet, citizens including women were forcefully dragged away and manhandled by male police officials."

# Darshan's wife visits police station

## Police make shocking claims on actor having given money for 'disposal of body'

The wife of actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who was arrested on June 12 in connection with the murder of Renuka Swamy, visited him a week later at the Annapoorneshwari police station. According to reports Vijayalakshmi Darshan is scheduled to provide her statement to the police on Wednesday after receiving a notice. The police issued her a notice after finding Darshan's shoes at her home.

Renuka Swamy, a dedicated fan of Darshan, was murdered on June 8, 2024, allegedly for making derogatory remarks about Pavithra Gowda, an actress.

Vijayalakshmi had also taken to social media posting an order by the court that said that the media should not be spreading misinformation about her family. She wrote, "At the outset, I express my heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased, Sri Renuka Swamy. The last few days have been full of anguish for Darshan, myself, my teenage son, and all of Darshan's friends, family, and fans. With this order issued by the Honourable Court, I hope people will put to rest some of the falsified information and untruths that have been spread across various media and social media platforms. I urge everyone to kindly publish only what is officially put out by the enforcement authorities. I have full faith in our legal system."

### 'Confessed to have given money'

Meanwhile, according to PTI, police said on Wednesday Darshan has confessed to have given Rs 30 lakh to another accused Pradosh for the disposal of the body and to ensure that 'his name does not come out anywhere'.

The amount has been recovered from Pradosh's residence, police sources said.

"Darshan, who is accused number 2 (A2) in the case, has in his voluntary statement to police said that he had given Rs 30 lakh to Pradosh (A14) to dispose of the body, and for the expenditure that would cost... for persons to carry out this task, and to ensure that his name doesn't come out anywhere," a police official said.

"From the spot of the crime, things such as lathi and logs used for the alleged assault have been recovered along with water bottle, blood stains and material evidence, and DVR containing the CCTV footage," the official said. According to the autopsy report, Renuka Swamy's death was caused due to shock and haemorrhage as a result of multiple blunt injuries.

### Fan clubs in radar

Fan clubs of Darshan are under police scrutiny following the murder. Police suspect the fan clubs of harbouring anti-social elements and benefiting from Darshan's financial support to boost his film success. Conflicts with rival fan clubs and associations with known rowdies are also under investigation.

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# Channapatna may see political battle 2.0 between HDK & DKS

## As DK Shivakumar mulls Channapatna run, political tensions rise between Karnataka leaders

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CM Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar, and DK Suresh addressed a public meeting during the recently conducted Lok Sabha elections (file photo)

The political rivalry between Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has intensified. There are now indications that DK Shivakumar may contest in the Channapatna by-election, although the situation remains fluid and subject to change.

HD Kumaraswamy has consistently won the Ramanagar Assembly constituency since 2004 (except in 2009). However, in the 2018 Assembly elections, he chose to contest from both Ramanagar and Channapatna. After winning both seats, Kumaraswamy vacated Ramanagar, allowing his wife, Anita Kumaraswamy, to contest and win there while he retained Channapatna. In the 2023 Assembly polls, Kumaraswamy decided to run from Channapatna and had his son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, contest from Ramanagar. Ramanagar, considered a stronghold of the Kumaraswamy family, was expected to be a secure victory for Nikhil. However, riding on a strong Congress wave, HA Iqbal Hussain defeated Nikhil, turning Ramanagar into a Congress stronghold.

The political rivalry between Kumaraswamy and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar escalated further when Kumaraswamy's brother-in-law, Dr CN Manjunath, the former director of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, defeated DK Shivakumar's brother, DK Suresh, in the Bengaluru Rural parliamentary seat recently. With Kumaraswamy now serving as a Union Minister after winning from the Mandya parliamentary seat, he resigned from the Channapatna assembly segment, necessitating a by-election.

Against this backdrop, a curious contest is brewing regarding the candidates for the BJP-JDS alliance and the Congress. CP Yogeshwar, the former Channapatna legislator, is strongly speculated to be the BJP's candidate, while there are discussions about the possibility of Nikhil Kumaraswamy or another member of the HD Kumaraswamy family contesting again for the JDS. On the other side, the DK Shivakumar (DKS) family, which recently suffered a defeat to the HD Kumaraswamy family in the parliamentary seat, is eager to reclaim Channapatna.

> **"If the Party and the people desire it, I may have no choice but to contest from Channapatna in the by-polls** – DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM

Rumors are circulating that DK Shivakumar may choose to contest from Channapatna. Addressing the media on Wednesday, DKS expressed, "If the Party and the people desire it, I may have no choice but to contest from Channapatna in the by-polls. Channapatna holds a special place in my heart. It was part of the former Sathanur assembly constituency, which I represented. My political journey truly began there. The people of Channapatna have stood by me during challenging times, and I feel indebted to them. There is immense potential to develop Channapatna similar to how I have contributed to the development of Kanakapura. I am engaging with local leaders and voters, visiting the constituency's temples, and will make a decision regarding contesting later." There are also speculations that DK Shivakumar's brother, DK Suresh, may be considered for the Channapatna seat. Responding to this, DKS clarified that no final decision has been made yet.

# Karnataka govt hints at increase in water tariff in B'luru

## As BWSSB grapples with stagnant tariffs, political tensions flare over alleged expenditure priorities, prompting scrutiny & debates on water policy reforms

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is facing significant financial strains attributed to stagnant water tariffs that have remained unchanged for over a decade. This situation has deterred banks from extending loans to BWSSB, raising concerns about its financial sustainability.

In response to these challenges, BWSSB has announced plans to review the water tariff structure. The board has already directed the use of 6 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of Cauvery water for Bengaluru, with future phases under consideration. However, any decision on tariff adjustments will be subject to a thorough review by officials.

Adding to the complexity, allegations by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regarding increased funding for Kempe Gowda Jayanthi celebrations have stirred controversy. In rebuttal, it was highlighted that the BJP itself inaugurated a Kempe Gowda statue at Kempe Gowda International Airport, prompting questions about expenditure priorities and event costs versus statue expenses.

Following recent fuel price hikes in Karnataka, the Congress government is now contemplating raising water tariffs in Bengaluru. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar emphasised the necessity of revising water tariffs, noting the absence of increases over the past decade despite escalating operational costs and ongoing infrastructure projects.

"The water tariff in Bengaluru has not been increased for 10 years, and we are suffering a great loss," Shivakumar stated. "We have taken on new projects, and no bank is coming forward to finance BWSSB." He highlighted the imminent completion of the fifth phase of the Cauvery project and pledged to expedite BWSSB's operational enhancements within the next 10 to 15 days.

As discussions continue on potential tariff adjustments, stakeholders await further developments amidst efforts to address BWSSB's financial challenges and navigate political sensitivities over public spending priorities in Bengaluru. — BMB

IN BRIEF

## Free land if Centre grants 50% subsidy: MB Patil

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil announced on Wednesday that the Karnataka state government is prepared to provide its share of a 20 per cent subsidy if the central government offers a 50 per cent subsidy to boost the semiconductor industry in the state. Patil's statement was a response to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's remarks on Tuesday, where he questioned whether the state government was willing to grant a 20 per cent subsidy to the U.S.-based Micron Technology, similar to the initiative by the Gujarat government.

In a post on 'X', Patil confirmed that the state would provide a 20% subsidy if the central government first offers a 50 per cent subsidy. "I am confident that Kumaraswamy will not backtrack on this," he stated. Patil stressed that the central government should implement a uniform policy across all states and expressed hope that Kumaraswamy would acknowledge this. He also questioned the central government's favouritism towards Gujarat, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state. — BMB

## BESCOM files complaint against YouTuber

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) filed a police complaint on Wednesday against a YouTube content creator for spreading false information about energy department schemes related to farmers. A 5-minute YouTube video uploaded by Shobha Prabhakar on her channel "Shobha Prime Tube" falsely claims that farmers will receive Rs 100 per week as compensation from the government if they have electric poles or transformers in their fields. Additionally, the video asserts that householders will receive free electricity ranging from 2000 to 5000 units and that farmers will get a compensation of Rs 5000 if they have agreements with the Energy Department.

"BESCOM categorically states that this information is false and has been circulated maliciously to mislead farmers and the public. No such plan has been announced or approved by the State Government, the Energy Department, Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOM), or Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL). The public is urged to disregard this false information and refrain from spreading such rumours. Believing and acting upon such misinformation can cause unnecessary confusion. Remember, any official announcements or schemes will only be communicated through proper and verified channels. For any clarifications or concerns, BESCOM's 24x7 helpline at 1912 is always available," said a release. — BMB

# Government bans over the counter sale of abortion pills

## New measures introduced to regulate sale of abortion medication; task force established to ensure compliance and protect women's health

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
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To put an end to 'illegal' and unsafe abortions, the government has decided to regulate the sale of medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) kits. The sale and distribution of certain medicines, including MTP kits, require a prescription from a registered medical practitioner as they are scheduled 'H drugs,' a health official told Bangalore Mirror. "...Concerns have been raised about the illegal sale and distribution of these drugs, particularly in unlicensed medical facilities, due to the potential harm to women's health. Hence, no pharmacy can sell these with a requisite and certified prescription."

The MTP kit is a widely used medication comprising two pills: mifepristone and misoprostol. This kit is commonly used to swiftly terminate unintended pregnancies, as many are under the belief that it is one of the safest and most straightforward abortion methods, as it does not require anaesthesia or surgical procedures. However, time and again, doctors have been insisting that this is completely unsafe without a doctor's guidance. There have been many deaths reported due to self-managed abortions in the past. Till now, these kits have been sold over the counter in many pharmacies.

A health official added, "A meeting held on June 10 addressed the illegal sale and distribution of MTP kits, which are being sold without the necessary prescriptions from registered medical practitioners, constituting a serious legal violation that poses significant health risks to women. Immediate action is needed to curb this illegal activity. This is a serious violation of the law and can lead to significant health problems for women. We must take immediate action to prevent such illegal sales and distribution."

> **There have been many deaths reported due to self-managed abortions in the past**

A district-level task force has been established to address this issue. This team includes officials from the drug control department, district health officials, and other stakeholders. The team's primary responsibility will be to conduct regular inspections of all drug stores within the district. The formation of this team is a critical step towards ensuring that these drugs are sold and distributed legally and safely.

"The task force will submit a detailed report to the state government on the 20th of every month, outlining their findings and any actions taken. We will be thorough in our inspections and will not hesitate to take strict action against those found violating the law. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns will be launched to educate both sellers and potential buyers about the legal requirements and health risks associated with the improper use of MTP kits. Awareness is the first step towards prevention. The district-level team's formation marks an important effort to combat the illegal sale and distribution of MTP kits. By enforcing these regulations, officials aim to safeguard women's health and ensure that these important medications are used responsibly and legally," added the official.

# Study reveals parental role in kids' mental health struggles

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A dedicated platform for conscious parenting focused on enhancing children's mental health and well-being has revealed significant findings from its recent study. Based on comprehensive coaching sessions with over 300 parents in Bangalore, the study highlights a concerning trend: in nearly 60 per cent of cases, parents are found to be the primary contributors to their children's mental health and stress challenges.

Other stakeholders such as teachers, extended family, and friends contribute to another 40 per cent of these issues, with social media further exacerbating the problem through constant comparisons.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

The study provides a detailed breakdown of the various stressors affecting children today. Among the most prevalent issues are social media addiction affecting 60 per cent of children, and anxiety impacting 40 per cent. Bullying is reported in 20 per cent of cases, while 40 per cent of children struggle with a lack of concentration. Other significant pressures include the need to look good, to fit in socially, and the pressures to use drugs and drink alcohol.

The study's methodology involved data collection from parents coached by the Nurturing Souls team, alongside data from a company working with students across various age groups on mental health and well-being. Supplementary data was sourced from reputable studies and reports, including those by the American Psychological Association, UCLA Health, Pew Research Center, NCERT, and the World Drug Report 2020.

Nikhil Gupta, Conscious Parenting Coach & Founder of Nurturing Souls, commented on the findings: "Several key factors link parental behaviour to children's mental health issues. These include parents' inability to refrain from living their aspirations through their children, the imposition of unrealistic expectations, the impact of parental relationships, and the undue stress placed on education taken as a return on investment. Other detrimental behaviours identified include continuous overdosing on guidance, hypocrisy in actions, unrealistic expectations of success, and an over-reliance on rewards and punishments which drive children to act based on consequences rather than a basic understanding of the action."

He further added, "Comparison with others also emerged as a significant stressor. We were particularly struck by the high incidence of children talking about depression, suicidal thoughts, and feelings of worthlessness. These findings underscore the urgent need for parents to become more aware and proactive in nurturing their children's mental health."

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# Cable conundrum of Bengaluru gets murkier

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

within the city, laying cables unlawfully and undermining the BBMP's financial stability." The official said that the prolonged inaction has raised major concerns among citizens, who are now demanding stringent measures to address the illegal connections and hold those responsible accountable.

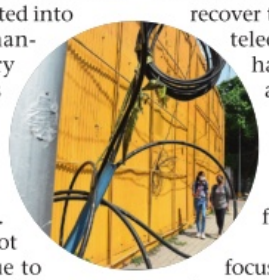
"A recent audit has brought to light further alarming details about the financial irregularities. It revealed that telecom companies in Bengaluru have significantly underpaid the BBMP, resulting in a revenue loss of Rs 86.65 crore. The audit found that some companies had obtained permission for limited cable lengths but laid up to 10 times the authorised lengths. This blatant disregard for regulations has exacerbated the financial losses incurred by the BBMP," the official said.

## GST evasion

Moreover, the audit uncovered that a few telecom companies have been evading Goods and Services Tax (GST) by not generating invoices on the GST portal, causing additional revenue shortfalls for the government. The Karnataka government had introduced a reverse charge mechanism in 2018 to ensure that telecom companies paid the GST.

Under this mechanism, the telecom companies were responsible for paying the tax on behalf of the service providers. However, the audit revealed that this mechanism was not effectively implemented, resulting in substantial unpaid taxes.

Further compounding the issue, Rs 49.94 crore collected as a security deposit from telecom companies was not deposited into the government treasury as mandated by the Karnataka Treasury Code, 1958, Section 278. "This amount should have been securely deposited, but the failure to do so has drawn the government's objection and demands for rectification. Additionally, Rs 7.98 crore was not collected from 3,448 towers due to the non-implementation of the reverse charge mechanism. These amounts were supposed to be collected by the BBMP, but the lapses in enforcement have led to significant financial oversights," claimed an official. In light of these findings, the State Government has now initiated steps to recover the evaded GST and other dues from the telecom companies. The audit's revelations have forced the authorities to take action against those responsible for these financial irregularities. The government's response aims to enforce stricter compliance with regulations and ensure that such revenue losses do not recur in the future.



"The BBMP and the government are now focused on rectifying these issues and holding the telecom companies accountable for their actions. Measures include enhancing the oversight and enforcement mechanisms to prevent illegal cable installations and ensuring that all fees and taxes are duly collected. These steps are crucial to safeguarding public revenue and maintaining the integrity of the city's infrastructure," said an official.

Gaurav Dinesh, a citizen said, Bengalureans are tired of seeing wires everywhere and despite complaints, there has been no respite. "As the situation unfolds, the residents of Bengaluru remain vigilant, hoping for swift and effective action to address the irregularities in the OFC network.

The audit has underscored the need for transparency, accountability, and robust regulatory frameworks to prevent such financial discrepancies and protect the interests of the public."

# Such checks should continue to make roads safe, citizens suggest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the south, the highest cases was recorded at KS Layout with 151 cases, followed by Adugodi at 118 and Electronic City at 125. Other notable areas include Thalagattapura (107), Madiwala (108), and HSR Layout (108). While Jayanagar and Bellandur reported 88 and 84 cases, VV Puram, Basavanagudi, Banashankari, and Hulimavu had fewer violations..

The areas that have recorded high numbers of drunk and drive cases have also recorded more pedestrian deaths as compared to other areas. KS Layout recorded three deaths, Electronic City recorded nine deaths, Madiwala recorded four deaths and HSR also recorded four pedestrian deaths as of June 18.

Whereas, areas like VV Puram and Banashankari recorded zero pedestrian deaths in six months.

BM spoke to citizens to understand if they believe the special drives would help reduce pedestrian deaths.

Many say that it's a step in the right direction, but the efforts need to be regular. "Special targeted drives give a boost to the enforcement activity. But even during other times, the efforts to curb drunk driving should continue so that road are safe all the time," said a citizen.

Another citizen emphasised on the need for regular checks after 9 pm, especially in areas with a high concentration of pubs and bars.

"Similar to the pre-covid era, these checks must be enforced to mitigate the increasing number of speeding cases across Bengaluru, including its outskirts and areas like Electronic City. I have myself witnessed the alarming rate of speeding and rash driving on the flyover," he said.

According to him, many times, post 8 pm, those heading towards Hosur are under the influence as they may be returning from pubs, mostly in the Koramangala area. "The Electronic City flyover has seen many deaths and hit-and-run cases recently. Therefore, stringent checks are essential from Friday to Sunday in several key locations, including Koramangala, Indiranagar, Kammanahalli, Whitefield, Yelahanka, and the route from Yelahanka to the airport, where speeding and drunk driving incidents are frequent," said the citizen.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**I,** Shairaj Banu Sheikh W/o Hyder Khan R/o 305, D-block, Shathavartha enclave, 1st main, K R garden, Murugeshpa-lya,B'luru-560017 have changed my name to Shiraj Banu Sheikh affidavit Dt.19/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

**I** Suhas Krishnarajapuram Chandrashekar s/o ChandraShekar K C, Bangalore . have changed my name from Suhas K C to Suhas krishnarajapuram ChandraShekar for all future purposes

**I** Dileep Saroja Kandagal S/O, Shamid R/o No.55, Green Park, 6th Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Atturu, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Dilawar Kandagal.

**I** Bandimane Shamant Nagabhushana S/o Nagabhushana J R/@ No. 83, 14th Cross 20th Main 2nd Phase J P Nagar B'luru 560078 have changed my name to Shamant Nagabhushana for all purposes

**I,** Srihari Kethohalli Siddaraju R/o Flat No 103 Kvr Iris Bilekahalli Main Road, Kc Halli, Bengaluru - 560070 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sejal Kethohalli Srihari to Sejal Srihari.

**I,** Ksheteesh Bharadwaj S/o Ravindranath K B R/o No.8/1 Kalappa Block, Basavanagudi, Bangalore have changed my name to Kshiteesh R Bharadwaj for all future purposes.

**I** Harini Ravikumar , presently residing at #358, 2nd Channakeshava nagar Hosa Road Electronic City post Bangalore - 560100, have changed my minor son name from Kaushik to Kaushik R

**I** Harini Ravikumar , presently residing at #358, 2nd Channakeshava nagar Hosa Road Electronic City post Bangalore - 560100, have changed my minor son name from Chamann to Chamann R

**I,** Shivananda Muniyappa S/o Muniyappa R/o #38 Nimbekaipura Virgonagar B'lore-560049 have changed my name to Partha Sarathi M for all purposes.

**I** Shathala No-864,5th main,9th cross,Beml Layout 3rd stage,Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Shantala.P for all purposes.

**I,** Ramesh Satyabodacharya Pujar R/o 148/b, 29th Cross, rajajinagar 2nd Block, bangalore-10, Have Changed My Name To Ramesh Satyabodha Pujar

**I,** Shwetha.A W/o Nagaraja.M R/o #731, Gangamma devi temple Rd, Lakkur (v/p), Malur (T), kolar (D)-563163 have changed my name to Swetha.A

KAUSHIK JN

## Centuries all around, but India prevail

Indian bowlers held their nerves, defying incredible centuries by skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp to defeat South Africa by four runs in a thriller at Bengaluru on Wednesday. With this win, India has won the three-match series 2-0. Earlier, Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur's explosive centuries powered India women to 325/3 against South Africa in the second ODI at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium. After winning the toss, South Africa sent India to bat

# Trainers, jockeys, horses ready to gallop to fame

## After HC nod, Bangalore Turf Club set to start summer season on Saturday

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After gaining the high court permission to conduct racing and betting, following the interim order by Justice Krishna Kumar, the management committee of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) decided to kick-start the delayed summer season with a two day week-end start on Saturday, June 22 and Sunday June 23.

The chairman of the Club, Arvind Raghavan disclosed that the trainers and owners and more importantly the administrative personnel of the BTC and contract labourers readily agreed to play their role in a bid to get racing at this centre back on track. "That's a good sign and I earnestly appreciate their support," he said.

Arvind made it clear that the interim order by the High Court was a big relief for the racing fraternity. "Horse racing has been conducted at this premier centre for the last 163 years and the interim order helped pull the racing industry out of the oxygen tent. The fact that licence was denied from April 1 has cost the state exchequer Rs 15 crore, while the BTC has lost Rs 7 crore in the 80 tough days," said Arvind.

The court decision to permit the club to conduct racing and betting including off-course betting on racing at all the other premier racing centres was most satisfying from the point of view of the more than 2,000 contract labourers including vendors and tote operators solely dependent on the racing activities.

File photo of spectators at the Bangalore Turf Club

The court made it clear that the club needs to adhere to the provisions of the law and the conditions imposed by the government and the state government is at liberty to monitor and regulate racing operations when required.

"We will follow the government guidelines and play by the rules," said Arvind while pointing that the stakeholders who suffered big losses are now looking to recoup a portion of their losses now that the game is put back on track and more importantly on even- keel, said the chairman.

To the credit of the management committee, it must be mentioned that despite the ominous dark clouds which took time to clear out,

> **"The fact that licence was denied from April 1 has cost the state exchequer ₹15 crore, while the BTC lost ₹7 crore in 80 days**
>
> Arvind Raghavan, BTC chairman

the mandarins of the club stuck to the task and with support coming from the professionals were ready to get the ball rolling in quick time the moment they get the green signal from the High Court. And that's exactly what has happened, all players in the game putting up a united front to get the game going after the frustrating delay. It is also learnt that the club has roped in one big sponsor for all the summer and the following winter classics and that's a healthy sign considering the financial crisis staring at the face of this premier racing centre.

When asked if bookmakers will be permitted to operate, Arving Raghavan revealed that BTC will conduct the summer races without the bookmakers. "Betting at totalizator alone will help the club generate higher revenue and that is the need of the hour," said Arvind Raghavan.

So now the thunder of the hooves will provide a lyrical ring, while the starter lowers the flag and the best horses at the campus gallop to fame after the long break.

# Anganwadi workers to unite for 'B'luru Chalo'

The Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers and Assistants Federation (KSAWAF) has demanded that the state government use anganwadi centres to start pre-primary classes instead of constructing new class rooms and recruiting teachers. The KSAWAF leaders on Wednesday called for Bengaluru Chalo on June 24 in support of their demands.

M Jayamma, secretary, KSAWAF, said the state government has been opening pre-primary classes since 2019 and attempting to weaken the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) instead of strengthening it for the benefit of children from economically weaker families. "The ICDS has been a great help for children from economically weaker families in rural areas during the last 49 years. The state government must strengthen it by providing uniforms, books, and play equipment for children aged between three and six years. Government must train the anganwadi workers to teach pre-primary classes at anganwadi centres," said Jayamma.

She said that 46,062 anganwadi centres are functioning from their own buildings across the state. She added, "Anganwadi centres have 6,365 workers who are graduates, 15,217 who passed PU, 1,682 who completed post-graduation, and 32,612 who passed SSLC. There is no need to spend money on recruiting teachers and constructing class rooms for starting pre-primary classes if the anganwadi centres are utilised for this purpose."

The Women and Child Welfare Department and Education Department had to submit a report to the state government as per the direction of the State Chief Secretary during a meeting on January 2, 2020. "Neither was a meeting held nor the reports were submitted," Jayamma said.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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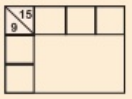
@BangaloreMirror

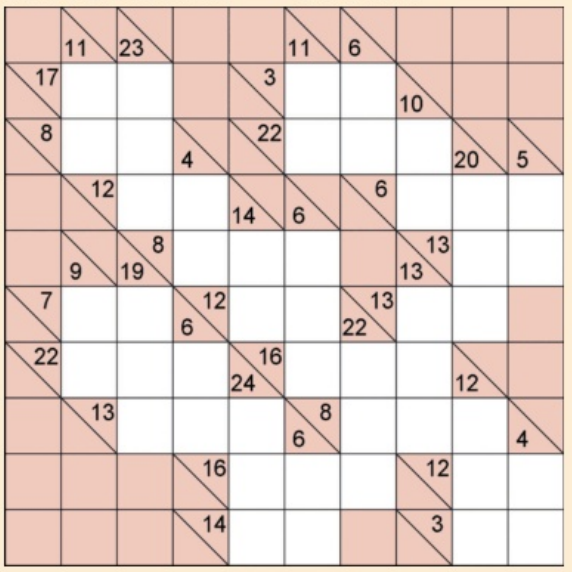

## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

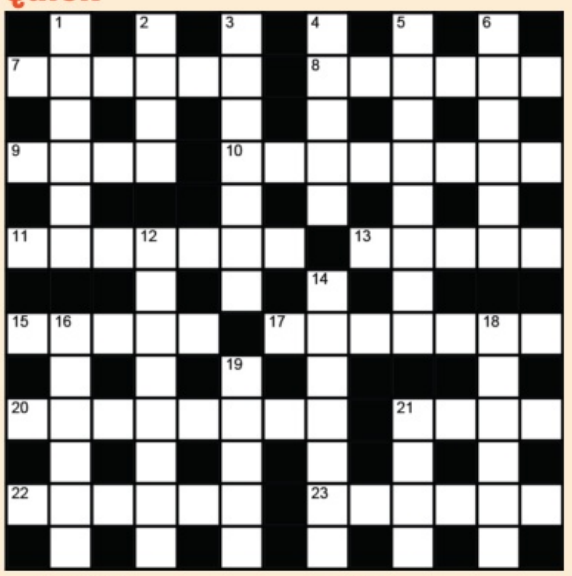


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Programme of business (6)
8 Revolver missile (6)
9 Cook in a certain way (4)
10 Like a cobra (8)
11 Ecstatic delight (7)
13 A small pier (5)
15 North Pole personnel (5)
17 Boris for one, Ivan for another? (7)
20 Underground cemetery (8)
21 Harbour boats (4)
22 Consequence (6)
23 Of imposing size (6)

**DOWN**

1 Queen of Crime ___ Christie (6)
2 Afresh or again (4)
3 Major South Indian river (7)
4 Black wood (5)
5 Nose-dives (8)
6 Take away (6)
12 Netherlands' famous city? (3,5)
14 Back pain (7)
16 Sprang (6)
18 Former German chancellor ___ Merkel (6)
19 Blows a horn (5)
21 Norse deity (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: E EQUALS G**

CO AS UABO M UGHHUO ZAPO NMPOSDU HIMK AS MKJHIGKE.

### Linemaro

Wow, you look like an angel. Welcome to earth

### Mindchow

A man is not finished when he is defeated; he is finished when he quits

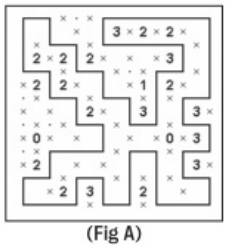
### Joke of the day

I met the bloke who invented crosswords today. I can't remember his name, it's P something T something R.

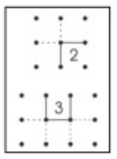
## Loop

**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

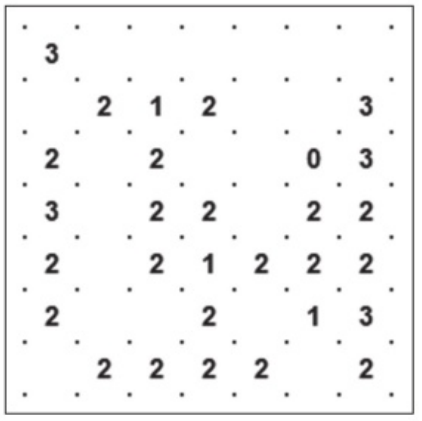


(Fig B) Not Allowed

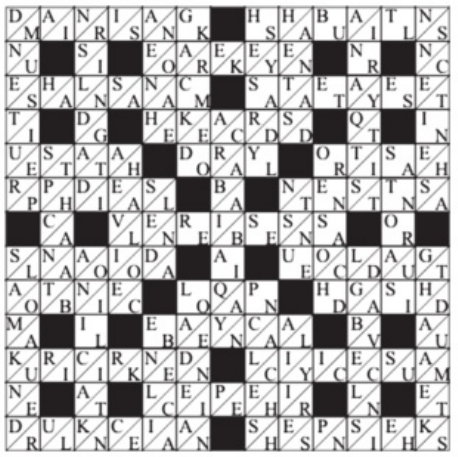
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | M |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

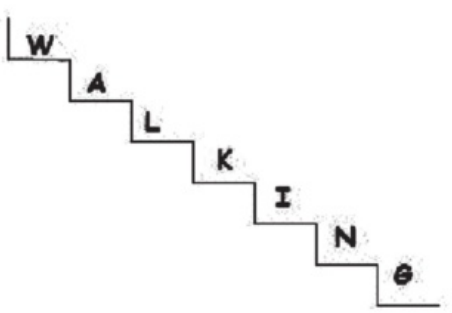
1 Basis; 6 Le thy; 7 Air at; 8 Maul B; 9 Sat up

**DOWN**

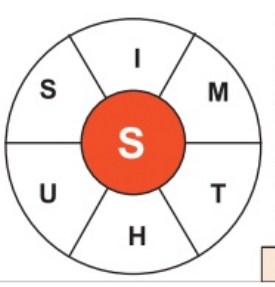
1 Beast; 2 Tital; 3 Hub as; 4 Pry us; 5 Lamia

## Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 5 | | 8 | | | 7 |
| | | 1 | 6 | | 7 | 3 | | |
| 6 | | | | 3 | | | | 2 |
| | | 7 | | | | 5 | | |
| 4 | | | 7 | 8 | 1 | | | 3 |
| | | 6 | | | | 2 | | |
| 5 | | | | 4 | | | | 9 |
| | | 4 | 9 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| 2 | | | 8 | | 3 | | | 6 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 22

2 4 7 9

**Medium** = 9

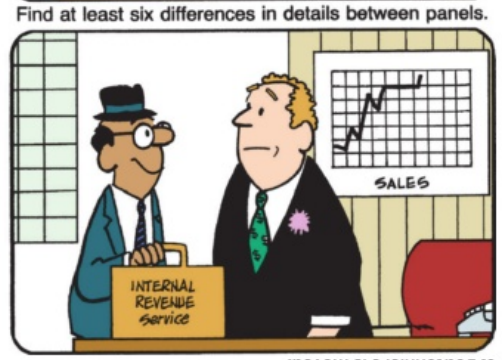
4 8 8 9

**Hard** = 16

2 6 8 6

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



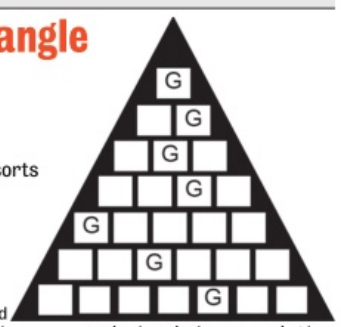

**Differences:** 1. Briefcase is larger. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Phone is moved. 4. Nose is different. 5. Desk is not as wide. 6. Boutonniere is moved.

## Riddler

Why is K like a sunrise? Why is L like a warm furnace? Why is M a favorite with miners?

## Alpha triangle

1 Gram, abbr.
2 Silver symbol
3 Ripen cheese
4 Fury
5 Rank
6 Book marker, of sorts
7 Titled widow

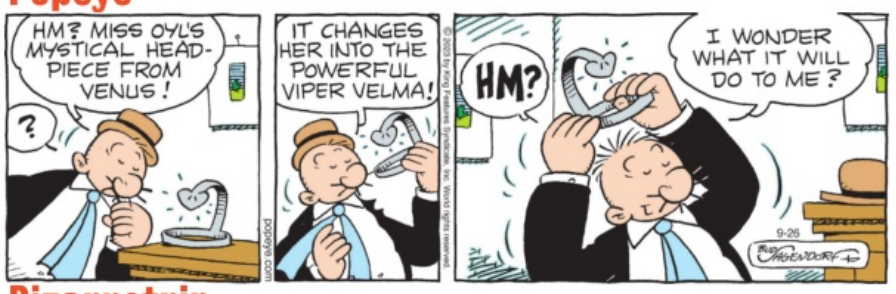



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


HM? MISS OYL'S MYSTICAL HEAD-PIECE FROM VENUS!
?
IT CHANGES HER INTO THE POWERFUL VIPER VELMA!
HM?
I WONDER WHAT IT WILL DO TO ME?
9-26

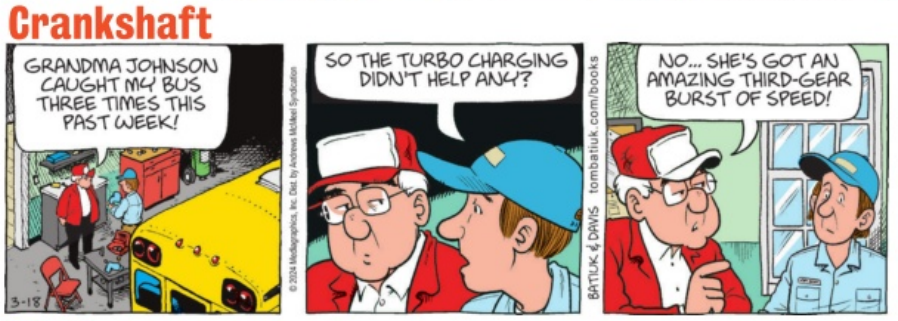
## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

PRODUCERS ONLY SELECT LIKE 100 APPLICANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUALIFIERS ON "AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR." OUR TEACHER IS ALREADY BEATING THE ODDS.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A FAN OF THE SHOW.
I'M A FAN AS OF THE LAST FIVE MINUTES.
AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR FANART
AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR THE UNTOLD TRUTH
AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR FACTS
AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR WINNERS
WHAT IS AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR?

## Crankshaft


GRANDMA JOHNSON CAUGHT MY BUS THREE TIMES THIS PAST WEEK!
SO THE TURBO CHARGING DIDN'T HELP ANY?
NO... SHE'S GOT AN AMAZING THIRD-GEAR BURST OF SPEED!
3-18
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day. You may help someone who is in need and may be polite with the people around you. You may also spend money to buy some household items, which may affect your savings. You may gain prestige and a position in your family.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, things are back on track. You may gain back your confidence, and you may enjoy your work. Couples are likely to enjoy their love lives. Couples may also hear good news in terms of a new child. Disputes between siblings may be settled.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are not blessed by elders. You may feel unhappy or impatient today. You may be detached from your responsibilities; if you are given a responsibility, you are likely to perform it unhappily. You may also not be able to complete any tasks.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, work-related stress may reduce significantly. Your earnings may be converted into profits now. You are likely to invest for a long time. You may get an overseas work order, which may give you financial benefits in the future. You may find your true love. Students may hear good news about their academics.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; you may perform better in your professional life. With the help of your subordinates, you may implement your business plans very easily. You may use your wisdom to gain profits; intellectual and financial investments may start yielding profits now. Due to your workload, you may not be able to give proper time to your family.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are inclined towards spiritualism, which may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You may plan to visit a religious place. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself; try to discuss them with those who may understand your frequency.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel nervous, and you may lack patience. You may be attracted to the occult; however, it is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead with it. You may also gain in-depth knowledge on a subject, or you may have a good focus on your research.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your moon is in a good position; you may expect some positive momentum in your professional and domestic lives. You are likely to expect gains in terms of your investments. You may get reciprocation for your help from your friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may perform better. Kids' health is better now; you can plan to make some investments for your child's future. You are likely to be more loyal to your job. A job seeker may find a good job with the help of a reference. You may be able to find your hidden enemies, and with the help of blessings, you may counter them.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day; you may be able to survive in any type of messy situation. Your patience may be tested many times, but with the blessings of the elders, you may complete your work efficiently. Students are advised to study with patience. Lovebirds are advised to avoid harsh conversations to maintain harmony in the relationship.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel disappointment at every moment. You may not be able to enjoy your work, and you may find yourself uncomfortable everywhere. It is advised to postpone investments in fixed assets for a few days. Parents' health may make you upset.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a good day. Your vital power may help you make difficult decisions in business. You may get positive results from your hard work. You may expect to get a big order, which can grow your business multiple times. You are likely to find love.

# KIDZONE

K Piyush Singh, 11 Years, St. Pauls English School

Sanjana Pradeep Kumar, 5 Years, DPS South School

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# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
100%*300/120=
30000/120%=
300/1.2%=
250%

**BULL'S EYE**
hiss, ISTHMUS,
miss, mist, mush,
muss, must, shut,
smith, suit, sushi,
thus

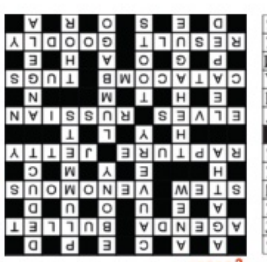
**STRIKE OUT**

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | S | S | I |
| A | L | B | U | M |
| T | I | A | R | A |
| E | T | H | Y | L |
| S | T | U | P | A |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Be of love a little more careful than of anything.

**QUICK**



**MENSA PUZZLE**
Walking down the stairs

**RIDDLER**
K is like a sunrise because it appears at the end of DARK. L is like a warm furnace because it makes IT LIT. M is a favorite with miners because it makes ORE MORE.

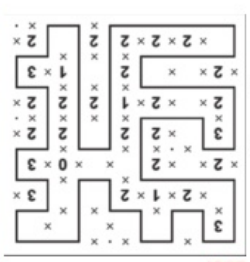
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

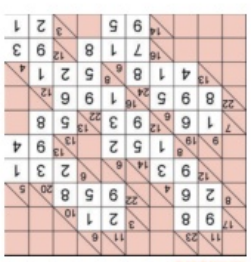
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
G, AG, AGE,
RAGE, GRADE,
DOGGER,
DOWAGER.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
9 + 4 + 2 + 7 = 22
Medium
8 – 8 x 4 + 9 = 9
Hard
6 – 6 + 8 x 2 = 16

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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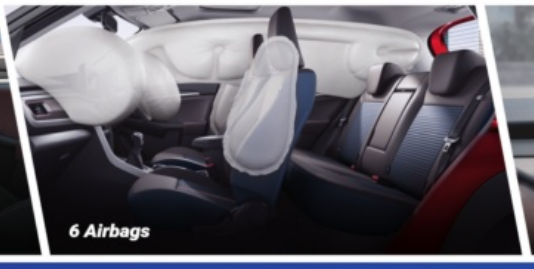

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